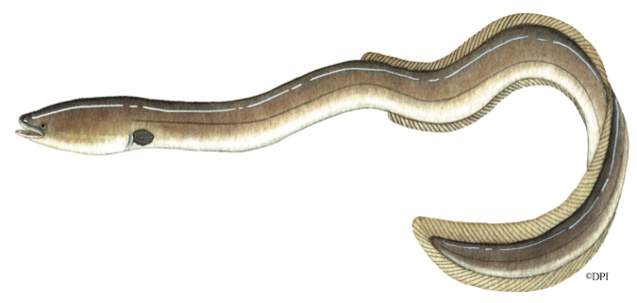
**Freshwater Fish of Victoria© State of Victoria, Department of Primary Industries**

**Scientific Name: Anguilla australis**

**Common Name: Short finned Eel**



**Description:** Long, tubular body with dorsal, tail and anal fins forming one fin. Small gill opening on each side of the head. Large mouth extending to below the small eye. vertical gill openings. Dorsal fin begins just forward of the anal fin. Back and sides may be olive-green or vary from pale green to olive-brown, sometimes with coppery tints above and silvery sides. Belly is greyish to silvery-white. Fin colour is dark like the back.

**Distribution:** Common and widespread in Victoria south of the Great Dividing Range, occurring occasionally in northern streams draining into the Murray River.

**Habitat:** Prefers low-lying swampy streams and lagoons. Although it occurs in a wide variety of habitats it is essentially a still-water species. Common in many southern Victorian lakes. Studies of tagged eels indicate that maturing adults in freshwater establish home ranges of about 400 m.

**Scientific Name**: Anguilla reinhardtii

**Common Name**: Marbled Eel

http://www.lib.noaa.gov/retiredsites/korea/endangered_species/endangered.files/slide0139_image050.jpg

**Distribution**: The Longfinned eel is found in freshwater rivers, streams, dams, lagoons and lakes on the coastal side of the Great Dividing Range, from Cape York in northern Queensland southwards through NSW into Victoria and Tasmania.

**Size**: Reaches a maximum length of approximately 1.7 metres and 22 kg in weight. Commonly found up to 1 metre in length.

**Characteristics**: Longfinned eels have an olive-green, heavily mottled back and sides and a silvery-white to pale yellow belly. They are the largest freshwater eel in Australia, with females growing much larger than males. It is a good recreational species because of its large size and strength. Commonly caught at night on baited hooks, particularly pieces of fish and earthworms.

**Scientific Name:** *Mordacia mordax*

**Common Name:** Short-headed Lamprey



**Status: N**ative

**Description:** Single nostril and eyes on top of head. Two small dorsal fins, second dorsal fin reaching to but distinct from the tail fin. The tail fin extends well along the body on the underside. Adults are distinguished also by the disc-like sucking mouth having no fringe. Juveniles brown to grey-brown on the upper body, lighter on the belly. Downstream migrant has a silvery belly and upstream migrant is usually bright blue on the back, silvery on the sides, with a silver eye. Mature adults are usually an overall muddy blue-grey.

**Distribution:** Widespread in coastal river systems, with a few individuals being found in the Murray River upstream to Yarrawonga.

**Habitat:** When in fresh water, typically found in coastal rivers and streams, juveniles found in muddy areas.

**Scientific Name:** *Geotria australis*

**Common Name:** Pouched Lamprey



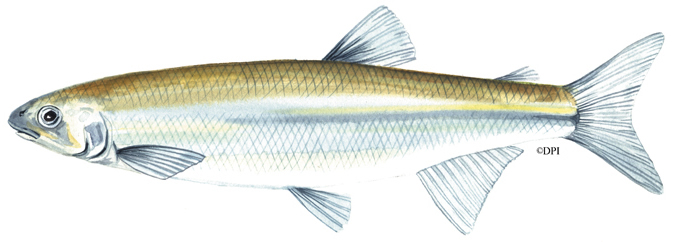
**Status:** Native

**Description:** As for Short-headed Lamprey, but the sucking-disc mouth is surrounded by branched filaments; eyes on side of head. Adult males usually have a baggy pouch beneath the head. Juveniles dark brown on top, lighter brownish-yellow below. Downstream migrant bright silver with two prominent blue-green stripes along the back. Adults are usually a drab, muddy grey-brown or black-brown, paler on the under body.

**Distribution:** Coastal drainages west of Lakes Entrance. Abundance not known

# Scientific Name: Prototroctes maraena

**Common Name**: Australian Grayling



## Conservation Status: Classified as 'threatened' under the Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act 1988.

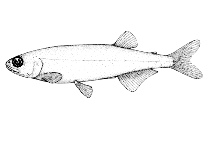
## Description: Slender body with a small head. Large eyes, usually bright yellow; rounded snout. Lower jaw is shorter than the upper jaw. Adipose fin. Mouth reaches to below the eye. No scales on the head and no lateral line. Brownish to olive or grey on the upper body, lighter on the sides, belly is usually white or yellowish. Peculiar cucumber smell given off by freshly caught fish.

## Distribution: Coastal drainages from the Hopkins River eastwards. Can occur well inland in these streams. Once common in all waters, it is still abundant in some localities. The Australian grayling was considered extinct in Victoria pre 1970 because the population once abundant in the Yarra River (and fished by anglers) appeared to have diminished. The start of wide-ranging fish surveys by the Fisheries and Wildlife Department in the early 1970's found good numbers of grayling first in the Combienbar River in Gippsland, then in almost all coastal waters west of the Hopkins River. Very large populations were found in the Mitchell, Tambo and Barwon Rivers. Surveys revealed that they still occurred in the lower Yarra River and should now recolonise upstream since a fishway has been constructed at Dight's Falls.

## Habitat: River and streams with a cool, clear, moderate flow, with a gravel substrate and alternating pools and riffles.

**Scientific Name**: *Retropinna semoni*

**Common Name**: Australian Smelt



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| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | Size: To 75 mm, rarely to 100 mm.  In the Coopers Creek system often to only 50 mm. | |  | | --- | |  | |
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| --- | --- |
|  | Conservation Status: Widespread and abundant throughoutits range, not threatenedHabitat: A pelagic species found in great numbers often inschools of several thousand individuals.  Prefers slow movingor still water, it is often found billabongs, dams, and lakes,both freshwater and saline, as well as slower sections riversand streams.  Completes its entire life cycle in freshwateralthough there have been some unconfirmed reports ofdiadromous populations. **Distribution**: A wide-spread species throughout the south-east  of the Australian continent.  Occurs in coastal drainages down  the eastern seaboard from about the Fitzroy River in  Queensland to the south-east corner of South Australia.  Occurs extensively in tributaries in the southern part of  the Murray-Darling system including the Darling  downstream from around Wilcannia and a number  of smaller disconnected river and creek systems in  the north-western part of New South Wales  extending into south western Queensland.    Also found in the Coopers Creek system which  drains into Lake Eyre.  **Scientific Name**: *Gadopsis marmoratus*  **Common Name**: River Blackfish |



**Description:** Long rounded body. Very small scales. Long, low dorsal and anal fins, with the dorsal fin appearing to be joined with the rounded tail fin, but actually separate. The pelvic fins are located on the underside of the body below the gills, and consist of one or two rays. Large head with rounded snout, low placed mouth which reaches back to the front edge of the eye. Lower jaw is shorter than the upper. Moderate sized eye located high on the head. Body invariably has a heavy coating of slime. Dorsal fin has 6-13 spines (as distinct from the two-spined blackfish, *G Bispinosus*). Colouring is highly variable, mottled yellowish, brownish-green or grey, but also dark brown to a light bluish or greenish-brown with blotches on the upper body, with many irregular darker blotches. Lower body may be light blue, yellow or purple. Fins olive-brown to black.

**Distribution:** Widespread in Victoria, both north and south of the Great Dividing Range. Common throughout most of its range.

**Habitat:** Although it is found in a variety of habitats, it is most common in cooler, flowing streams where there is plenty of rock cover with abundant snags, fallen timber and debris, and gravel bottom. A bottom dwelling fish. Also occurs in slow-flowing lowland rivers, coastal and in-land lakes, and reservoirs.

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Scientific Name: *Pseudaphritis urvilli* **Common Name**: Tupong  Photo of a Tupong (C)Gunther Schmida Size: Commonly 100-200mm to more than 350mmConservation Status: Common, widespread | |  | | --- | |  | |  | |
|  |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
|  | Habitat: Found throughout estuarine and river systems within it range.  Generally prefers lower water velocities and is often found amongst debris on the bottom of quiet pools or under snags and undercut banks.  In gravel substrates, will bury itself leaving the eyes and dorsal fin just visible as it waits in ambush.  Has a bottom dwelling life style.Distribution: Common in coastal streams in Victoria, Tasmania and Southern New South Wales as well as the Eastern part of South AustraliaReproduction: Not well known, it is believed that tupong migrate into the estuaries to spawn.Diet: Tupong are a generalised carnivore and eat a wide variety of benthic animals such as aquatic insects, worms, small yabbies and shrimps |

**Scientific Name:** Atherinosoma microstoma

**Common Name:** Small-mouthed Hardyhead



**Status:** Native

**Description:** Slender, long body, almost flat on top. Pointed or slightly rounded snout. Large eye, high on the side of the head. Small upturned mouth, which does not quite reach the front of the eye. Translucent body, pale olive-greenish above, light green, white or silvery below. Broad silvery stripe along the sides. Yellowish fins with black spots at the fin bases. Dark line along the base of the anal fin and the lower tail.

**Distribution:** Widespread and abundant along the Victorian coast.

**Habitat:** Essentially an estuarine species, but found in coastal lagoons and lakes and associated streams, near aquatic vegetation, and in streams connected to estuaries and the sea.

**Scientific Name:** Gobiomorphus australis

**Common Name:** Striped Gudgeon



**Status:** Native

**Description:** Large rounded head and broad snout, with bulbous cheeks. Small oblique, upturned mouth that barely reaches level with the rear of the eye. Relatively small eyes, positioned high on the head. Body, cheeks and opercula covered with moderate sized scales. Large, rounded tail. Brown, dark brown to grey-green on the upper body, becoming lighter on the sides. Belly is grey or cream. Five to seven thin horizontal dark stripes along the side of the body. Short, broad stripe extends from eye to mouth, second narrower stripe behind the eye. Dark spot at base of pectoral fin. Dorsal and tail fins covered with rows of dark spots, fins otherwise grey to yellow, translucent. Colour intensifies during breeding season, the upper body becoming rich, dark chocolate brown with purple sheen, becoming greenish to lightish gold on the lower sides. Anal fin is orange in the male, golden-yellow in the female.

**Distribution:** Limited in Victoria to the coastal south-east (east of Wilsons Promontory), abundance not well known, probably not common. Usually more abundant at low altitudes near the coast, especially in summer.

**Habitat:** Adult fish occur in a variety of riverine habitats, from turbulent, rapid-flowing head-waters to slower-flowing, often muddy, lowland waters; juveniles are common in estuaries at certain times of the year. Usually found near submerged rocks, logs and vegetation. Occurs most frequently in muddy waterholes or slow flowing areas, rather than swifter clearer waters.

**Scientific Name:** Philypnodon grandiceps

**Common Name:** Flat-headed Gudgeon



**Status:** Native

**Description:** A large, flattened head, with a large, oblique, upturned mouth extending to below the middle of the eye. Eyes positioned high on the head, moderate size. Sharply rounded snout. No scales on the cheeks or gill covers. Upper body colouration varies depending on size and habitat. Black, grey, brown, or reddish-brown fading to yellow or yellowish-green on the belly. Irregular, giant, darker blotches on the back and sides. Four dark bars radiating from the eye; first to the snout, second to the corner of the eye, third to gill cover, fourth to top of gill cover. Fins are translucent, colourless to yellowish, dorsal and anal fins have indistinct grey stripes. Numerous dark spots forming bands on the tail fin.

**Distribution:** Widespread throughout Victoria, except at higher altitudes in the north-east. Common, often locally abundant.

**Habitat:** Found in a wide variety of habitats, both freshwater and estuarine. Occurs most frequently in lakes and dams where there is little or no water flow, usually where there are weedy or mud bottoms. It can also be found in estuaries.

**Scientific Name:** *Nannoperca australis*

**Common Name:** Southern Pigmy Perch



**Status:** Native

**Description:** Large head, with rounded snout. Moderate sized eye high on the side of the head. Oblique mouth, gape extends back past the rear of the eye. Body covered with scales, snout and lower jaw bare. Back colouration is dark golden brown to greenish, lighter lower body. Black or drown blotches occur along the sides. A large, slightly concave to rounded tail. Dark brown-black spots form two indistinct horizontal bands along the body, one above, one below the lateral line, the lower band continuing through the eye.

**Distribution:** Widespread throughout Victoria, being more abundant south of the Great Dividing Range. Reasonably common and abundant in some areas.

**Habitat:** Frequents weedy slow-flowing or still waters such as lakes, dams, billabongs and irrigation channels, or the slow flowing areas of stream edges where aquatic vegetation is present in small creeks and backwaters of larger rivers.

**Scientific Name:** *Edelia obscura*

**Common Name:** Yarra Pigmy Perch



**Status:** Native, Potentially Threatened Yarra Pigmy Perch is listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* 1988. Under this legislation, the taking, possession or trading of Yarra Pigmy Perch is prohibited

without a permit, license of Governor-in-Council Order issued under the Act. Departmental research and

management activities have been authorised by a Governor-in-Council Order.

**Description:** Large head with pointed snout. Moderate sized eye positioned high on the side of the head. Small oblique mouth. Body covered in scales. Upper body colouration is olive-green or greyish, greenish-brown along the sides, with a yellowish-white belly. Scale margins are dark. Dark spots occur on the body and at the base of the tail. Fins are clear, fawn to orange, often with dark borders. Several dark, rearward pointing chevron-type markings on the front half of the body.

**Distribution:** Southern Victoria from Dandenong Creek west to the Victorian - South Australian border.

**Habitat:** Prefers slow-flowing or still waters with abundant aquatic vegetation, in lakes and small creeks. It has been collected from brackish waters.

**Scientific Name:** *Galaxias cleaveri*

**Common Name:** Tasmanian Mudfish



**Status:** Native Tasmanian Mudfish is listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* 1988. Under this legislation, the taking, possession or trading of Tasmanian Mudfish is prohibited without a permit, license of Governor-in-Council Order issued under the Act. Departmental research and management activities have been authorised by a Governor-in-Council Order.

**Description:** Short, blunt rounded head. Medium-sized mouth with equal length jaws. Very small eyes. Rounded tail with fin flanges running forward almost to the dorsal and anal fins. Tail fin is usually rounded. Greenish-brown on the back and sides, belly is usually light grey. A light stripe is sometimes present along the belly. Sides and bases of the fins are marked with numerous dark brown stripes and blotches.

**Distribution:** In Victoria, known to occur in one stream on Wilsons Promontory (first recorded in 1980), the lower reaches of the Wye River, Otway Ranges (1983), and found in 1990 in the Aire River and tributaries, western Otways. Indications are that *G. cleaveri* is more widespread in Victorian than previously believed, as there is unsurveyed typical habitat at a number of locations.

**Habitat:** Low altitudes, in well vegetated swamps, low-lying swampy habitats and drains.

**Scientific Name:** *Galaxias maculatus*

**Common Name:** Common Galaxias



**Status:** Native

**Description:**

Long, slender body with small pointed head. Small mouth reaching back to the large eye. Colour varies from olive to grey to amber. Irregular greenish-grey blotches or spots are present on the back and sides. Lower sides, gill covers and eyes may be silver. Fins are colourless. Dorsal and anal fins are set in line.

**Distribution:** Widespread and common in southern Victoria. Landlocked populations occur in several Western District lakes, including Bullen Merri, Colac, Modewarre and Purrumbete, and Lake Elusive in east Gippsland.

**Habitat:** Most abundant in still and gently flowing waters, lakes and lagoons, coastal streams and swamps.

**Scientific Name:** *Galaxias olidus*

**Common Name:** Mountain Galaxias



**Status:** Native

**Description:** Small blunt head with a blunt snout. Equal jaws, with the mouth reaching to below the eye. eakly forked tail. Dark brown to yellowish-green on the upper body, sides are lighter and the belly whitish. Back and upper sides are usually spotted, speckled or blotched with dark grey. Anal fin begins under the rear half of the dorsal fin.

**Distribution:** Widespread and abundant both north and south of the Great Dividing Range.

**Habitat:** Medium to high altitude streams (up to 1,800 m) where water temperatures are cooler and streams smaller with rock, gravel or sand substrates. Also found over mud substrates in quieter stretches of water.

**Scientific Name:** *Galaxias truttaceus*

**Common Name:** Spotted Galaxias



**Status:** Native

**Description:** Deep body with a broad, deep head. Mouth reaches the front of the eye with jaws of equal length. Usually brown to olive-grey upper body, lighter on the sides, with olive to silver belly. Body is covered with many round spots, sometimes in vertical rows. Each spot is surrounded by a pale halo. Two blue-black blotches on the body behind the gill cover. Fins are olive to brown, with some smaller fins orange on the outer half. Dark edge on the dorsal and anal fins. Distinct diagonal dark stripe across the head, passing through the eye. Beginning or anal fins is slightly behind the start of the dorsal fin.

**Distribution:** Coastal drainages from East Gippsland to the South Australian border. Distribution is patchy, but locally abundant in some waters.

**Habitat:** Still or slow-flowing streams, amongst cover near banks or on the bottom; at low altitudes and close to the sea. Landlocked populations occur in some lakes, near cover such as rocks.

**Scientific Name:** *Galaxiella pusilla*

**Common Name:** Eastern Little Galaxias



**Status:** Native, Endangered Eastern Little Galaxias is listed under the *Flora and Fauna Guarantee Act* 1988. Under this legislation, the taking, possession or trading of Eastern Little Galaxias is prohibited without a permit, license of Governor-in-Council Order issued under the Act. Departmental research and management activities have been authorised by a Governor-in-Council Order.

**Description:** Deep body at the belly, short head with a round, blunt snout and equal length jaws. Rounded tail with long flanges reaching along the body almost to the dorsal and anal fins. White to silver belly. Olive to amber upper body with three horizontal dark stripes along the sides of the body. Males have a conspicuous orange stripe between the mid and lower dark stripes; females lack this orange stripe. Start of dorsal fin is behind the start of the anal fin.

**Distribution:** Widespread from Gippsland to the South Australian border. Very patchy distribution, but locally abundant in some waters.

**Habitat:** Still, shallow waters, often with heavy weed growth, including lakes, roadside ditches and swamps.

**The information and diagrams for this field guide has been collected from the Victorian Department of Primary Industries website. The Field notes at that site contain much more information about each species and family of fish.**